

## Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGR-10

COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 IGA-02 L-03 H-02 ( ISO ) W  
----- 125844

R 151525Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7421

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS RABAT 0236

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EEC MO

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS ON GOM/EC ACCORD

REF: RABAT 165

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS REFLECTION, OPOSITION PRESS ON JANUARY  
15 DEVOTED FOUR FRONT PAGE COLUMNS TO GOM/EC AGREEMENT UNDER  
HEADLINE "NEW MOROCCAN-EC ACCORD INADEQUATE REGARDING AGRI-  
CULTURAL ARRANGEMENTS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MINIMAL; NO  
SPECIAL BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH EC MEMBER STATES".

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2. ACCORDING TO REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR

TO EC (AND BRUSSELS) BENKIRANE, AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AGREEMENT FAR SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS, BUT ASSERTED THAT TALKS DIRECTED TOWARDS "AMELIORATION OF AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS WILL BE REEXAMINED FROM TIME TO TIME DURING REGULAR MEETINGS WITH EC COMMISSIONER". BENKIRANE WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRESENT UNDERSTANDING ACCEPTED ON BASIS OF CURRENT REALITIES WHILE LOOKING TOWARDS FUTURE RATIONALIZATION OF PRESENT "COMPLEX AND HYBRID" EC AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

3. ON FINANCIAL SIDE, AMBASSADOR CHARACTERIZED EC EXTENSION OF 130 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT CREDIT OVER FIVE YEARS AS MINIMAL--REPRESENTING ONLY 2-3 PER CENT OF MOROCCO'S FINANCING NEEDS. CONFIRMED THAT GRANT ELEMENT IS 16 M.U.A., OR ABOUT ONE PER CENT OF 130 M.U.A. TOTAL.

4. AMBASSADOR BENKIRANE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ACCORD CONTAINS "NOTHING SPECIAL GOING BEYOND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS" RE IMMIGRANT LABOR. ADDED OPTIMISTICALLY THAT THIS LEAVES WAY OPEN FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENTS AT PAN-EUROPEAN LEVEL.

5. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION WHETHER AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A VICTORY, GIVEN THE LONG, ARDUOUS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH REQUIRED SO MUCH PATIENCE AND TENACITY, AND WHETHER IT CAN BE EXPECTED TO PROMOTE MOROCCO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SIGNIFICANTLY, AMBASSADOR OBLIQUELY RESPONDED "THE ACCORD WITHOUT QUESTION REFLECTS A FUNDAMENTAL 'GIVEN' IN OUR FOREIGN TRADED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE EUROPEAN MARKET REPRESENTS IN OUR FOREIGN TRADE. GROSSO MODO, TWO-THIRDS OF OUR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ARE WITH THE EC-9. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY VERY IMPORTANT."

6. RE RELATIONSHIPS OF EC/GOM AGREEMENT TO EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT MAURATANIA, SOMALIA, AND SUDAN ALREADY INVOLVED IN SUCH DIALOGUE WITH EC THROUGH LOME CONVENTION. AGREEMENTS WITH THE THREE MAGHREB COUNTRIES HAVE JUST BEEN CONCLUDED. RELATED NEGOTIATIONS ARE PENDING WITH EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND LYBIA. "IT CAN THUS BE SEEN THAT THE EUROPE OF THE COMMUNITY IS ALREADY IN PROCESS OF CREATING PRIVILEGED TIES WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES, FOR WHICH THE EC IS TO BE CONGRATULATED. THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE IS GREATLY UNCLASSIFIED

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FACILITATED AND ADVANCED BY SUCH ACCORDS, THOUGH QUESTIONS OF ANOTHER NATURE AND OF QUITE DIFFERENT AMPLITUDE WILL BE INVOLVED (IN THE BROADER DIALOGUE OF THE QUESTION ASKED)."

7. SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS DOES NOT RUN INTERVIEW, BUT CONTAINS FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, DEFENSIVE IN TONE, ASSERTING THAT "ARRANGEMENTS NOT AS LIBERAL FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (AS FOR INDUSTRIAL GOODS) BY REASON OF FACT THAT EC IS NOT AT

PRESENT IN POSITION TO DEFINE A COMMON POLICY FOR ITS OWN  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS." EDITORIAL SEVERAL KEYS LOWER THAN  
EBULLIENT "VERITABLE DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT" HEADLINE OF  
JANUARY 12 (REPORTED RABAT 165), BUT ASSERTS THAT THE AGREEMENT  
"DESPITE SEVERAL OMISSIONS...IN ANY EVENT SAFEGUARDS MOROCCO'S  
INTERESTS; PREVIOUSLY ACQUIRED ADVANTAGES HAVE BEEN PRESERVED  
AND THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES OUR POSITION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY"  
(PRESUMABLY AN ALLUSION TO FACT THAT NEW ARTICLE 238 AGREEMENT,  
UNLIKE PREVIOUS, IS UNLIMITED IN DURATION).

8. COMMENT: MOROCCO CLEARLY UNHAPPY WITH NEW ACCORD, BUT  
FINALLY DECIDED IT COULD NOT DO BETTER. AND IN MIDST OF  
INCREASINGLY SEVERE RECESSION HAS DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HALF A  
LOAF. END COMMENT.NEUMANN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN TRADE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976RABAT00236  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760016-0911  
**From:** RABAT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabvnn.tel  
**Line Count:** 129  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 RABAT 165  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** mendozsm  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by mendozsm>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER REACTIONS ON GOM/EC ACCORD  
**TAGS:** ETRD, MO, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006